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Thank you for your letter of 13 March laying out the Federation of Small Business' position on deposit return.

The Scottish Government recognises that a deposit scheme for drinks containers could improve recycling rates and reduce litter. However, we acknowledge that a number of key issues have been raised, such as how deposit return could impact on small stores, how people behave differently where a deposit return is in place and how it might affect the collection system we already have. We have therefore asked Zero Waste Scotland to conduct a thorough review of the issue, including discussing it with stakeholders like the FSB. I understand that a workshop is being held on 10 May to consider the implications for small businesses, and that FSB's participation has been invited. I would encourage FSB to engage with this process to ensure your concerns are discussed.

I hope this reassures you that we are keen to engage fully with stakeholders as part of this work.

Yours

Roseanna Cunningham

